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WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR
1962

WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1962 — 1963

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

MR A. C. LESTER, The Triangle, Wantage Road, Wallingford.

DR. O. C WILKINSON, Bezants, Winterbrook, Wallingford.

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. A. L. CONWAY. 8/10 Wallingford Street, Wantage.

MR. O. S. WALTER. Ickleton House, Wantage.

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MRS. E. A. BENNETT, 120 Kynaston Road, Didcot.

MRS. E. M. COLLIER, Collier's Cottage, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell.

MR. H. T. MERRITT (*Chairman*), Hermitage, 40 Manor Rd., Didcot.

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. D. B. A. BEATTIE, Brookside, Westbrook Street, Blewbury.

MR. E. C. GOLBY, Cheap Street, Compton.

MR. A. G. MULFORD (*Vice-Chairman*), Brookside, Upton.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MR. J. L. SALE, C.I.E., Priors Hold, Wantage.

DR. A. G. WALTER, Middle Wharf, Thames Street, Wallingford.

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

G. V. SPOONER, 60 Bath Street, Abingdon.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

F. R. HOWELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Secretary

MRS. E. L. FUDGE.

Municipal Offices, Wallingford.

Telephone 2225.

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH

Public Health Inspector

E. N. SINCLAIR, M.R.S.H., A.M.I.P.H.E.

Municipal Offices, Wallingford.

Telephone 2184.

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

Public Health Inspector

L. OLIVER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices, Portway, Wantage.

Telephone 456.

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Chief Public Health Inspector

L. SPROSTON, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

District Public Health Inspector

N. C. ALLEY, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices, Broadway, Didcot.

Telephone 2301.

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT

Senior Public Health Inspector

E. H. ROSSER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

F. J. HALL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices, Belmont, Wantage.

Telephone 211.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
WALLINGFORD

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1962. This includes the information required by the Ministry of Health as indicated in their Circular 1/63.

The population of the combined districts increased by 1,100 or 2.3%. The largest increase occurred in Wallingford Borough where it rose by 7.8%, approximately the same as in 1961. About half of the increase in the combined districts was accounted for by the excess of births over deaths but this is by no means true of the individual districts. In Wallingford Borough, for instance, the excess births over deaths was only 33, so that immigration accounted for 91.1% of its increased population, figures which are greatly influenced by the existence within the Borough of so much residential accommodation for old folks; in Wantage Rural District the comparable figures were 234 and 2.5% respectively.

Live births during 1962 were 142 more than in 1961, 1,021 compared with 879. This represents a 16.1% increase. The corrected birth rates, with the exception of Wallingford Borough, were all higher than the provisional rate for England and Wales. I am pleased to note that the stillbirth rate fell from the high figure of 17.9 per 1,000 in 1961 to 11.6 per 1,000 in 1962. This compares very favourably with the provisional rate for England and Wales, which was 18.1 per 1,000. It is less pleasing to record an increase in the number of illegitimate births, 48 compared with 34 in 1961. This means that 4.7% of all live births in the combined districts were illegitimate. In 1961 the corresponding figure was 3.9%. The national figure for 1962 was 6.6% of all live births.

The total deaths in 1962 were lower in all four districts than they were in the preceding year and in all cases it was the smaller number of male deaths which accounted for the fall. Together with the increase in population, this caused a substantial reduction in the death rates for all districts, and they were all much lower than the provisional rate for England and Wales.

There was a marked rise in the number of infant deaths under 1 year. The total of 29 such deaths in 1962 made the infant mortality rate 28.4 per 1,000 live births, which is well above the provisional rate of 21.4 per 1,000 for England and Wales. Of the 29 infant

deaths under 1 year, 18 occurred during the first 4 weeks and 15 of these during the first week of life. The causes of the 29 deaths were as follows: - prematurity 8; foetal abnormality 8; infections 6; birth injury 4; Rh: incompatibility 2; acute leukaemia 1.

The causes of deaths table shows that coronary heart disease was again responsible for the largest number of deaths, accounting for 17.9% of the total and representing an annual death rate of 1.9 per 1,000 population. This, one of the diseases of civilization, is on the increase, and is contributed to by many factors: diet, especially the consumption of large amounts of animal fats, is probably the most important but cigarette smoking, alcohol, mental strain and sedentary occupations, all play their part. It would seem that, in the present state of medical knowledge, the only way substantially to reduce this toll of deaths, would be by making considerable adjustments to our way of life.

This is true also of another killer: cancer of the lung. This disease too is becoming more common and it caused 15 deaths in the combined districts in 1962. The report published early in the year by the Royal College of Physicians showed quite clearly that the main cause of the disease is cigarette smoking, the heavy smoker being about thirty times more likely to be affected than the non-smoker. The vehemence with which many smokers attempted to dismiss these findings and the unrealistic arguments sometimes used showed very clearly that there are none so blind as those who will not see. Every adult must, of course, make his own decision in this matter and life cannot be lived without running risks. Nevertheless, we have a duty to try to dissuade children from acquiring the smoking habit until they are old enough to realize the danger involved. This means a continuing effort, especially in the schools, to counter the effect of tobacco advertising and the example of adults who smoke. As well as propaganda and education to this end, it would seem reasonable to prohibit smoking by school teachers within the schools and to restrict smoking in public places.

Diseases of the heart and circulation altogether caused 273 deaths, about the same percentage of the total deaths as last year. Respiratory diseases caused 72 deaths, 22 fewer than last year. This reduction was due to the smaller numbers of deaths from pneumonia and influenza. There were, however, 7 more deaths from bronchitis. Malignant diseases, including lung cancer, caused 77 deaths, about the same number as in 1961. There were no deaths from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

The notifications of infectious diseases were at the lowest figure since 1958, largely due to the fact that 1962 was not an epidemic year for measles. The number of new cases of respiratory tuberculosis was about average at only half the high figure for 1961.

There was a quite dramatic fall in the number of cases of whooping cough, only 4 being notified. This in spite of a substantial reduction in the figures for whooping cough immunisation, especially noticeable in the Wantage Rural District. There were no cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis.

There has been a considerable increase in the notifications of Sonnei dysentery, which reflects the national figures. In the combined districts there were 22 cases in 1962, 20 being notified in the Wallingford Rural District. Many of these resulted from a small outbreak in one of the Didcot schools. Dysentery is a disease which is spread by contact with infected faecal material and it is therefore particularly favoured by conditions in schools, especially amongst infants where a continuous and generally high standard of personal hygiene can hardly be hoped for. When it does occur, measures for its control must include the immediate isolation of all cases of diarrhoea; strict attention to adequate hand washing after using the W.C., together with dipping of the hands in a suitable disinfectant solution; thorough and frequent cleaning with disinfectant of all places likely to be contaminated by faecal material, including cistern chains or handles, door knobs and edges and tap handles as well as the W.C. seats; the use of individual or disposable towels. Obviously these measures are greatly helped by adequate and well designed toilet and washing facilities and require the whole-hearted co-operation of the school staff. The latter, I am glad to say, is always easy to obtain but the former are still not to be found in many of our schools.

The figures for immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough in 1962 were very disappointing, showing falls of about 19% and 17% respectively, compared with 1961. The under 1 year age group were most affected; indeed the numbers immunised between 1 and 4 years of age showed considerable improvement in both cases. Although these diseases are at present less virulent and far less common than they were a few years ago they both remain potential scourges which might well return as we used to know them if a reasonably high state of herd immunity is not maintained by immunisation in infancy. Greater efforts are obviously needed to persuade parents to have their babies protected, if possible before they are 6 months old.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis also showed a sharp decline in 1962. It is possible that the introduction of the oral vaccine and some half-hearted doubts about its complete safety and effectiveness (since shown to be groundless) might have affected these figures. It is to be hoped that the 1963 figures will be much better.

In contrast the figures for smallpox vaccination were, as was expected, phenomenally high, there being an elevenfold increase over those for 1961. It is significant however that, of the total of

7,224 vaccinations, only 206 were infants under one year. In 1961, 577 infants under 1 year were vaccinated. It is true the Ministry have now advised that vaccination should be carried out in the second rather than in the first year of life, but this was not done until the end of 1962. It would seem, therefore, that apathy about vaccination became re-established very rapidly after the smallpox outbreaks in the early part of the year had been brought under control. The fact that over 1 person out of every 7 throughout the combined districts was vaccinated, even though no cases of smallpox were notified, shows very clearly the fear which the disease can engender and it is surprising that it can be so quickly forgotten. Many medical men believe, it is true, that routine infant vaccination should be discontinued and the disease controlled, when it does appear in the country, by the well established methods currently employed. I do not subscribe to this view. The danger of importation of smallpox has been enormously increased by the rapid growth of air travel. When it does occur, the medical resources in the locality of the case or cases are always stretched to the limit and it is possible that the pool of immune individuals, small though it undoubtedly is, may make the difference which allows the disease to be contained. Vaccination should continue in the 1—2 year age group and every effort should be made to bring the figures up to as high a level as possible.

Mention is made elsewhere in this report of the problem of the contamination of water cress. A working party, which included representatives from the Ministries of Health and Agriculture and Fisheries, the Public Health Laboratory Service and the growers, was set up during 1962 to investigate the problems involved in the production of cress of a reasonable bacteriological standard, but its findings have not yet been made public. Obviously the points which must be considered by the growers are the provision of a reasonably pure water supply; the prevention, as far as is practicable, of contamination of the beds by surface water, bird droppings, etc., and the dipping of the cress in hypochlorite solution before despatch to market. This latter measure has been shown to be very effective when carried out properly. The final safeguard is, of course, thorough washing of the cress under running water prior to its consumption.

At the end of the year, the Minister of Health stated that he was ready to approve under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the making of arrangements with water undertakings for the addition of fluoride to water supplies which are deficient in it naturally. This announcement followed the publication of an official report on studies which had been made in the United Kingdom over a five-year period and it sparked off a furious minority opposition to the measure which, at the time of writing,

is in no way abated. This has resulted in the holding up of fluoridation schemes in many parts of the country and is most unfortunate when it is realized that fluoridation is one of the most important health measures to be proposed in recent times. Its complete safety has been demonstrated exhaustively over a period of about 40 years and its cost would be slight compared with the many millions which would be saved on the dental services, to say nothing of the misery and suffering which would be prevented. It is not, of course, the complete answer to dental caries and normal dental hygiene is still both necessary and desirable. Nevertheless the voiciferous opponents to fluoridation, many of whose arguments are specious and even absurd yet appear to carry conviction largely because they are taken out of context, will not earn themselves the thanks of future generations if they succeed in having their way.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Joint Public Health Committee and the Public Health Committees of the four district councils for bearing with me at all times; the public health staffs of these councils for their unfailing help and co-operation and my secretary, Mrs. Fudge, who has maintained her usual standard of efficiency.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. R. HOWELL.

POPULATION

District	Area in Acres	Estimated Mid-Year Population		Difference
		1961	1962	
Wallingford Borough	760	4,730	5,100	+ 370
Wantage Urban	2,797	6,160	6,350	+ 190
Wallingford Rural	21,790	19,470	19,770	+ 300
Wantage Rural	74,181	16,810	17,050	+ 240
Combined Districts	99,528	47,170	48,270	+ 1,100

LIVE BIRTHS

District	No. of live births 1962			Birth rate per 1,000 population	Corrected Birth rate per 1,000 population	
	Male	Female	Total		1962	1961
Wallingford Borough	56	62	118	23.1	20.8	16.3
Wantage Urban	65	66	131	20.6	18.8	17.5
Wallingford Rural	205	198	403	20.4	21.0	18.0
Wantage Rural	200	169	369	21.6	21.2	19.6
Combined Districts	526	495	1,021	21.1		
England and Wales*					18.0	17.4

STILL BIRTHS

District	No. of stillbirths		Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total birth (live and still)	
	1961	1962	1961	1962
Wallingford Borough	2	2		
Wantage Urban	4	1		
Wallingford Rural	3	3		
Wantage Rural	7	6		
Combined Districts	16	12	17.9	11.6
England and Wales*			19.1	18.1

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS

District	Number of illegitimate births per annum					
	1938	1945	1952	1960	1961	1962
Wallingford Borough	3	5	5	5	2	4
Wantage Urban	3	17	5	6	6	8
Wallingford Rural	11	26	21	17	15	19
Wantage Rural	7	30	15	15	11	17
Combined Districts	24	78	46	43	34	48

TOTAL DEATHS

District	No. of Deaths 1962			Crude death rate per 1,000 population		Corrected death rate per 1,000 population	
	M	F	Total	1961	1962	1961	1962
Wallingford Borough	32	53	85	18.4	16.7	9.4	8.0
Wantage Urban	23	42	65	12.0	10.2	8.9	8.1
Wallingford Rural	106	122	228	12.5	11.5	10.8	10.0
Wantage Rural	78	57	135	8.6	7.9	9.1	8.5
Combined Districts	239	274	513	11.6	10.6		
England and Wales*						12.0	11.9

INFANT MORTALITY

District	No. of infant deaths under 12th months of age		Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	
	1961	1962	1961	1962
Wallingford Borough	0	4		
Wantage Urban	0	4		
Wallingford Rural	8	18		
Wantage Rural	5	3		
Combined Districts	13	29	14.8	28.4
England and Wales*			21.6	21.4

* Figures for England and Wales for 1962 are provisional.

CAUSES OF DEATH — 1962

	Wallingford Borough M. F. Total	Wantage U.D. M. F. Total	Wallingford R.D. M. F. Total	Wantage R.D. M. F. Total	Combined Districts 1962 1961
Tuberculosis, respiratory	— — —	— 1 1	1 1 2	— — —	3 3
Tuberculosis, other	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
Syphilitic disease	— — —	— — —	— — —	1 1 2	2 — —
Diphtheria	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
Whooping cough	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
Meningococcal infections	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
Acute Poliomyelitis	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
Measles	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
Other infective and parasitic diseases	— — —	— — —	— — —	1 1 1	— — —
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1 2 3	— — —	3 2 5	2 1 3	11 12
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1 — 1	2 — 2	6 2 8	3 1 4	15 19
Malignant neoplasm, breast	— — —	— 2 2	1 3 4	— 1 1	7 5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	— — —	— 1 1	— — —	— — —	1 2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2 3 5	2 3 5	9 6 15	10 6 16	41 38
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	— — —	— — —	— 2 2	— — —	2 2
Diabetes	— — —	— — —	— 1 1	— — —	1 — —
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	5 13 18	3 10 13	6 27 33	9 13 22	86 86

Coronary disease, angina	7	6	13	6	6	12	27	14	41	16	10	26	92	91
Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	2	—	1	1	1	2	3	2	1	3	9	8
Other heart diseases	3	3	6	2	5	7	18	31	49	8	3	11	73	81
Other circulatory diseases	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4	2	3	5	13	15
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	9
Pneumonia	5	9	14	1	1	2	6	10	16	4	4	8	40	59
Bronchitis	—	1	1	2	1	3	5	3	8	11	1	12	24	17
Other diseases of the respiratory system	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	1	1	3	6
Ulcers of stomach and duodenum	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	3	3
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	—	2	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	4	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital malformations	1	1	2	2	—	2	—	2	2	—	1	1	7	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	7	9	1	6	7	10	10	20	6	7	13	49	56
Motor vehicle accidents	2	—	2	—	1	1	4	—	4	—	—	—	7	7
All other accidents	2	1	3	—	2	2	2	3	5	—	1	1	11	14
Suicide	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	1	3	1	—	1	5	6
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
Total	32	53	85	23	42	65	106	122	228	78	57	135	513	548

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Disease	Wfd. Boro	Wantage U.D.	Wfd. R.D.	Wantage R.D.	Total 1962	Total 1961
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	20	2	22	1
Encephalitis (Acute)	—	—	1	—	1	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	3	—	—	3	10
Malaria B.T.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	58	23	39	120	673
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	2	—	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Acute Primary)	—	—	—	—	—	7
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	1	—	2	1
Scarlet Fever	—	1	3	8	12	7
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	2	3	—	5	10	20
Tuberculosis (Other forms)	—	—	4	1	5	5
Whooping Cough	—	2	—	2	4	30
Total	2	68	54	57	181	755

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION 1962

District	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total
Wallingford Borough					
Primary ...	40	33	1	—	74
Booster ...	—	—	2	—	2
Wallingford Rural					
Primary ...	171	47	3	—	221
Booster ...	—	26	16	—	42
Wantage Urban					
Primary ...	41	36	—	—	77
Booster ...	—	10	7	—	17
Wantage Rural					
Primary ...	79	47	1	—	127
Booster ...	—	9	12	—	21
Combined Districts	331	208	42	—	581

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION 1962

District		Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total
Wallingford Borough						
Primary	...	41	36	3	—	80
Booster	...	—	—	6	—	6
Wallingford Rural						
Primary	...	174	83	5	—	262
Booster	...	—	36	35	—	71
Wantage Urban						
Primary	...	36	33	3	—	72
Booster	...	—	16	27	—	43
Wantage Rural						
Primary	...	80	64	6	—	150
Booster	...	—	12	32	—	44
<hr/>						
Combined Districts		331	280	117	—	728

SMALLPOX VACCINATION 1962

District		Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total
Wallingford Borough						
Primary	...	47	101	169	110	427
Re-vacc.	...	—	39	147	554	740
Wallingford Rural						
Primary	...	90	159	176	871	1296
Re-vacc.	...	—	107	270	1285	1662
Wantage Urban						
Primary	...	19	94	74	250	437
Re-vacc.	...	—	46	96	421	563
Wantage Rural						
Primary	...	50	134	138	405	727
Re-vacc.	...	—	59	233	1080	1372
<hr/>						
Combined Districts		206	739	1303	4976	7224

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION 1962

District	Children				Adults		
	Born 1947-1962		Born 1950-1957				
	2nd Injections	3rd Initial 3-orals	4th Initial 3-orals	4th Initial 3-orals	2nd Injections	3rd Initial 3-orals	Initial 3-orals
Wallingford Borough	36	76	21	182	21	131	14
Wallingford Rural	237	359	44	356	129	521	19
Wantage Urban	60	157	25	243	36	208	6
Wantage Rural	170	270	75	376	109	567	81
Combined Districts	503	862	165	1157	295	1427	120

BOROUGH OF WALLINGFORD

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the dwelling houses in the Borough are supplied with water from main piped supplies.

Sixteen samples of chlorinated water in distribution were taken for bacteriological examination. All samples were satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sewage from the whole of the Borough is pumped for treatment to the Wallingford Rural District Council's disposal works at Cholsey and this arrangement has continued to work satisfactorily.

REFUSE COLLECTION

A weekly collection of refuse from all properties in the Borough has been maintained satisfactorily throughout the year and the Council has continued to use the Wallingford Rural District Council's tip for disposal.

RODENT CONTROL

Summary of work carried out.

	<i>Visits</i>	<i>Treatments</i>
Dwelling Houses	63	38
Business Premises	36	18
Local Authority Premises	158	7
Agricultural Premises	4	1
Sewers	2	2
	<hr/> 263	<hr/> 66
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Test Baiting of Sewers for Rats

A 10% sewer test was carried out in October and all sewers were clear.

MILK SUPPLIES

Two dairies are registered for the retail sale of milk.

Twenty-five samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and all samples passed the appropriate tests.

ICE CREAM

Seventeen premises are registered for the sale of Ice Cream. No Ice Cream is manufactured in the Borough.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS

All premises selling ice cream in the Borough comply with the Regulations.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Slaughtering is carried out at one slaughterhouse in the Borough and the condition of the premises has been completely satisfactory.

The following tables give details of carcasses and offal inspected:

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	231	25	75	854	383
Number Inspected	231	25	75	854	383
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	3	5	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	28	4	—	16	21
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	12.1	16.0	4.0	2.5	6.3
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	3	—	—	6
Percentage of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	12.0	—	—	1.8
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—

The following quantities of unsound food were examined and voluntarily surrendered:

Tinned Fruit and Vegetables	37 tins
Tinned Fish	2 tins
Tinned Meat	37½ lbs.
Dried Fruit	58 lbs.

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

All fresh meat condemned as unfit for human consumption is sprayed with liquid acid green and destroyed. All condemned tinned food is disposed of by the Local Authority with their refuse.

FOOD PREMISES

TYPE OF BUSINESS

(a)	Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	8
(b)	Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	13
(c)	Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	2
(d)	Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	2
						(including one under (c))	
(e)	Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	7
(f)	Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	8
(g)	Hotels catering for non-residents					...	2
(h)	Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	4

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

(a)	Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	17
(b)	Manufacture of Sausages	...	...	...	8

INSPECTION OF REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES

Twenty inspections were carried out.

BAKEHOUSES

There are four bakehouses in the Borough. All were inspected and their condition was satisfactory.

HOUSING AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

30 houses were erected by the Borough Council during the year.

2 houses were erected by private enterprises.

12 individual houses were represented as unfit for human habitation and either closed or demolished.

The Council operate a small camping and caravan site at their Riverside Park for holiday purposes only, the maximum stay permitted being fourteen days.

BATHING PLACE

The Borough Council own and maintain an open air swimming pool and a paddling pool at the Riverside Park near Wallingford Bridge.

The recirculation and purification plant has continued to function satisfactorily.

Nine samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from the swimming pool and plant during the season.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 — INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	26	14	—	—
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	25	8	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	51	22	—	—

2 — CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

2 Sanitary conveniences insufficient (Remedied).

2 Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or defective (Remedied).

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork — Nil.

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLIES

Supplies of water by the Thames Valley Water Board during the year have been adequate to meet demands, but due to rapidly increasing requirements on new housing estates and for industry, means will have to be adopted for augmenting the present supply to the area.

6 samples of water were obtained for bacteriological examination — the results in each case being satisfactory.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The construction of sewers has been confined to new separate foul and surface water sewers on new housing estates and no major schemes were undertaken.

Satisfactory effluents continue to be obtained from the Bradfield Farm Sewage Disposal Works but trouble has been experienced in not being able to cope satisfactorily with the quantity of sludge obtained due to the absence of a sufficient number of sludge drying beds.

A scheme is being prepared for the enlargement of these works.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The weekly collection of Domestic and Trade Refuse from all properties in this area has been maintained throughout the year.

The tip at "S" Hill is being worked satisfactorily and will provide tipping space for some years.

RODENT CONTROL

65 premises were surveyed under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 19 as a result of notification of infestation.

A further 198 premises were examined for rodent infestation during inspections for other purposes.

30 minor infestations were found and treated.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The Haven Vale Caravan Site, Grove Street, is licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, for 27 moveable dwellings. An adequate sanitary and ablution block is provided which is maintained in a satisfactory condition.

A licence is also issued for a limited period to station and use one moveable dwelling on land off Manor Road, Wantage.

CEMETERY

Land has been purchased for burial purposes to the South of the existing Cemtery at Chainhill, part of which has been developed for immediate use.

HOUSING

	1961	1962
Number of permanent houses erected	54	43
Number of permanent houses erected by the Local Authority	—	—
Number of permanent houses erected by Private enterprise	54	43
Number of temporary houses erected	—	—
Number of families on housing list	219	207

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Number of persons dealt with under Section 47:	Nil
Number of persons dealt with under Section 50:	Nil

PUBLIC BATHS

The Urban District Council own and maintain one open air swimming pool. No filtration or purification plant is installed, the pool being emptied, cleansed and refilled weekly from the public mains.

A scheme is being prepared for the construction of a modern open air pool on a site at the Recreation Ground.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES

Number of premises disinfected during the year — Two.

LICENSED PREMISES

There are 17 licensed premises in the area 12 of which have been inspected, involving 18 visits. Improvements have been carried out to the sanitary accommodation at one of these premises.

SHOPS ACT

Number of shops in the district	98
Number of shops inspected ...	67
Number of inspections ...	97

FOOD AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are 50 food premises in the area as follows: -

Butchers	...	...	...	...	8
Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	1
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	2
Grocers and General Stores	...	...	...	...	17
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	3
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	2
Sweet Shops	...	...	...	...	5
Hotels	...	...	...	...	6
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	3

46 premises were visited with a total of 67 visits. The standard of cleanliness in food premises was generally satisfactory. As a result of informal action 2 shops were brought to the standard of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT & FOOD INSPECTIONS

One licensed slaughterhouse which was in operation has been voluntarily closed on the retirement of the licensee and no slaughtering has taken place in the district since the 19th March, 1962. 17 cattle were killed and inspected and 2, representing 11.76% of those inspected, had some part or organ condemned because of disease other than tuberculosis or cysterci.

The following items were found, on inspection at premises other than the slaughterhouse, to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered: -

CANNED FOODS

Fruit, 1 can, 7 lbs.

Meat, 7 cans, 31 lbs.

Full Cream Sweetened Condensed Milk, 124 cans.

FRESH FOODS

Meat, 83 lbs.

Unsound meat is sterilized and used for animal food. Other unsound foods are buried under Council supervision.

ICE CREAM

24 premises are registered for the sale of Ice Cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. All licensed premises have been inspected during the year, the total number of visits being 58. The premises were found to be satisfactory in respect of the storage and sale of ice cream.

45 samples of fruit lollies, 4 samples of cream lollies and 1 sample of soft ice cream were obtained for bacteriological examination. The cream lollies and soft ice cream were placed in Provisional Grade I, but 43 samples of ice lollies contained coliform bacilli to varying degrees and 19 of these samples were contaminated with Bact. Coli. (Type I). These results were considered to be unsatisfactory and the manufacturer concerned was informed. All efforts were made at the factory to trace the source of the trouble, with the assistance of a doctor from the Central Public Health Laboratory. Improvements were effected and samples taken later in the year were found to be better.

MILK SUPPLIES

There are two retailers of milk in the district each of whom hold licences to sell Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk and there are also five shops in the district from which milk is sold in pre-packed containers.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR DURING 1962

			<i>No. of properties or sites visited</i>	<i>Total No. of visits made</i>
Water sampling	...	...	6	12
Sewage Disposal	...	...	1	26
Refuse Tip	...	...	1	49
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	2	16
Public Baths	...	...	1	23
Licensed Premises	...	...	12	18
Shops	...	...	67	97
Food Shops	...	...	46	67
Ice Cream Shops	...	...	24	58
Slaughterhouses	...	...	1	7
Unfit Food	...	...	11	15
Milk Shops	...	...	5	7
General House Inspection	...	151		184
Disinfection of Premises	...	2		4
Drainage Inspection	...	31		43
Rodent Control	...	65		173
Miscellaneous Visits	...	12		17
Number of different premises inspected				438
Number of visits made				816
Number of complaints received				46
Number of defects or nuisances discovered				61
Number of nuisances abated				59
Number of notices: Formal				Nil
Informal				61

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 — INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	17	16	—	—
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	25	23	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	11	—	—
Total	47	50	—	—

2 — CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Nil.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork — Nil.

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to the area continued to be furnished by the Thames Valley Water Board from the same sources as in the previous year.

Water samples as detailed below were examined during the year: -

1. WORKS

		<i>Raw Water</i>	<i>Final Water</i>
Aston Tirrold	...	23	23
Cholsey	...	18	20
South Moreton	...	24	18
West Hagbourne	...	33	24

2. STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Aston Tirrold Reservoir	2
Hagbourne Reservoir ...	2
Tap Sample ...	1

In all, therefore, 188 samples were examined from the area.

Of 98 raw waters, 36 showed contamination by organisms of the coliform group.

Of 90 samples of final, stored and distributed water, 3 showed contamination by coliform organisms.

In general, therefore, the water supply can be said to be pure and wholesome.

CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WATER SUPPLY

(Results given in parts per million where appropriate)

	Aston Tirrold	Cholsey	S. Moreton	W. Hagbourne
Appearance ...	clear and bright	clear and bright	clear and bright	clear and bright
Colour (Hazen) ...	Nil	Nil	less than 5	Nil
Odour ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH value ...	7.3	7.1	7.2	7.2
Chlorides ...	12.0	23.0	17.0	11.7
Hardness as Ca. CO ₃				
Total ...	210	377	392	300
Carbonate ...	185	240	360	270
Non-Carbonate	25	137	32	30
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N) ...	0.000	0.000	0.015	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N) ...	0.010	0.030	0.95	0.020
Nitrite (N) ...	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Nitrate (N) ...	4.0	2.2	0.2	3.3
Iron ...	Nil	less than 0.02	0.07	Absent
Other metals ...	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hrs. at 27°C)	0.05	0.15	1.05	0.20
Total Dissolved Solids	240	465	640	385

From the above analyses, the water would not be expected to be plumbo solvent, and no tests for lead were carried out during the year.

No unusual instances of contamination of the supply occurred during the year.

EXTENSIONS TO THE SUPPLY SYSTEM

The following mains have been laid in the year:

Station Road, Didcot	30 yards of 4" main
and 72	„ „ 4" „
Papist Way, Cholsey	215 „ „ 4" „
Moulsford	487 „ „ 4" „
and 203	„ „ 3" „
Queen's Way, Didcot	866 „ „ 4" „
and 440	„ „ 4" „
King Alfred Drive, Didcot	21 „ „ 3" „
N.I.R.N.S. Estate, Didcot	88 „ „ 4" „
Wallingford Road, Sotwell	10 „ „ 4" „

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewerage and sewage disposal works for the villages of Long and Little Wittenham were completed during 1962. The scheme comprised sewers to serve the two villages, four small pumping stations and sewage disposal works (screening chamber, sedimentation tank, filters, humus tanks, sludge beds and an irrigation area).

Work on major extensions to the Cholsey Sewage Disposal Works is progressing and it is hoped to complete by September 1963.

A new 24" diameter outfall sewer was completed at Didcot and other public sewers to serve new development at Didcot and Cholsey.

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE

Surface water drainage to prevent flooding was carried out in the west end of Didcot, together with the clearing of water courses through Didcot and East Hagbourne.

REFUSE COLLECTION

STAFF. 1 Foreman and 10 men (1 man employed full-time on tip control).

EQUIPMENT.

One 25 cubic yard Karrier (Petrol).

One 25 cubic yard S. & D. Freighter (Diesel).

One 25 cubic yard Karrier (Diesel).

One Fordson Major (Diesel) — Tip Control.*

* To be replaced in 1963.

COLLECTION. Kerbside collection once per week. A charge of £1 per annum is made for additional service where refuse is collected from the back door.

DISPOSAL. By controlled tipping at Pearith Gravel Pits, Long Wittenham.

TRADE REFUSE. The Council is considering the introduction of charges for the collection of trade refuse in 1963. At present a charge of 5/- per load is made for the disposal of such refuse on the tip.

SALVAGE. Salvage operations are confined to the recovery of rags, woollens, mixed metals, steel and cast iron.

STREET CLEANSING

Towards the end of 1962, the Council introduced a modified street cleansing service in Didcot. A pensioner is now employed 3 half-days per week in clearing litter from the main shopping centre in Broadway.

RODENT CONTROL

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT IN 1962.

		<i>Visits</i>	<i>Treatments</i>
Local Authority premises	...	291	46
Dwelling Houses	... ..	352	220
Business Premises	... ..	88	48
Agricultural Properties	...	458	82
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total	1189	396
		<hr/>	<hr/>

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district. Particulars are given below: -

<i>Location</i>	<i>Owner</i>
The Cholsey Slaughterhouse, Ilges Lane, Cholsey.	The Cholsey Meat Supply Co. Ltd.
The Slaughterhouse, 5 Hagbourne Road, Didcot.	Messrs. H. Andrews & Sons,

Details of meat inspection carried out during the year are set out in the following table: -

MEAT INSPECTION 1962							
	Cows	Steers	Heifers	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Lambs
January	1	16	15	3	67	7	24
February	—	8	16	6	60	2	25
March	1	15	10	4	68	4	29
April	2	6	16	8	41	1	24
May	—	12	13	4	57	—	34
June	—	5	8	2	36	—	29
July	—	11	7	2	39	1	33
August	—	8	6	2	41	1	16
September	—	5	8	3	42	—	18
October	—	7	10	8	63	2	40
November	—	9	6	5	53	—	34
December	—	8	3	3	61	—	19
Total	4	110	118	50	628	18	325
<div>Tuberculosis</div> <div> <div>Whole carcasses</div> <div>Part carcasses/</div> <div>organs</div> <div>%</div> </div> <div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> </div> <div> <div>—</div> <div>1</div> <div>0.43</div> </div> <div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> </div> <div> <div>—</div> <div>12</div> <div>2.07</div> </div> <div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> </div>							
<div>Cysticercus Bovis</div> <div> <div>Whole carcasses</div> <div>Part carcasses/</div> <div>organs</div> <div>%</div> </div> <div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> </div> <div> <div>—</div> <div>7</div> <div>3.07</div> </div> <div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> </div> <div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> </div>							
<div>Diseases other than T.B. and Cysticercus Bovis</div> <div> <div>Whole carcasses</div> <div>Part carcasses/</div> <div>organs</div> <div>%</div> </div> <div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> <div>1</div> <div>25</div> </div> <div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> <div>13</div> <div>5.70</div> </div> <div> <div>2</div> <div>—</div> <div>—</div> <div>4</div> </div> <div> <div>1</div> <div>54</div> <div>8.75</div> </div> <div> <div>2</div> <div>2</div> <div>22.22</div> </div> <div> <div>—</div> <div>1</div> <div>0.30</div> </div>							

WEIGHTS CONDEMNED

Whole Carcasses	...	...	476 lbs.
Part Carcasses	...	...	38 lbs.
Meat	...	...	245 lbs.
Offal	...	...	265 lbs.
Total			1,024 lbs.

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF FOODS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

FRESH FOODS	<i>Weight</i>
1,565 poultry	5,768 lbs.
Meat	97 lbs.
Dried Fruit	308 lbs.
Cheese	23 lbs.

CANNED FOODS		
Fruit and Vegetables	1,094 cans	2,537 lbs.
Meat	111 cans	281 lbs.
Fish	9 cans	7 lbs.
	Total	<hr/> 9,021 lbs. <hr/>

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

MILK. There is a large milk bottling plant in the district with a daily throughput of 11,000 gallons. All milk retailed in the district is designated.

Four samples of T.T. Pasteurised milk were taken during the year, and all samples were reported as satisfactory.

There were two complaints concerning dirty milk bottles. In one case a letter of warning was sent to the dairyman concerned. In the other case the contaminating material was found to be a powder burn from fireworks, and no action was taken against the dairy concerned. One dairyman was warned for retailing milk in a vehicle without his name and address displayed.

ICE CREAM. One café is registered for the manufacture of ice cream, but most of his stock was purchased from a wholesaler during the year. There are 56 premises registered for the sale and storage of pre-packed ice cream. No samples of ice cream were taken during the year.

GENERAL. The following complaints concerning food offered for sale were dealt with during the year: -

- (1) Complaint about a foreign body in cake. Letter to manufacturer concerned but no legal action taken as the complainant had eaten the remainder of the evidence.
- (2) Complaint about mould in rusks. Investigation with manufacturers and retailers — letter to retailer about the introduction of a satisfactory system of stock rotation.
- (3) Complaint about suspect pork pies. Bacteriological report negative — no further action.

- (4) Complaint about foreign body in jar of pickled cabbage. Investigation of circumstances of manufacture and bottling — no further action against manufacturers.
- (5) Complaint about threadworms in wet fish. Letter of warning to retailer.

STATISTICS

FOOD PREMISES IN THE DISTRICT

Food Factories and Warehouses	...	8
General Grocery	... ..	41
Butchers	... ..	11
Chemists	... ..	5
Cafés	... ..	3
Public Houses	... ..	23
Travelling Food Vehicles	... ..	7
Greengrocers	... ..	5
Confectioners	... ..	7
Fish Shops	... ..	3
Hotels with Catering Licences	... ..	6
Bakeries	... ..	3

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Manufacturers of Ice Cream	... ..	1
Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	... ..	56
Fish Frying	... ..	2
Sausage Making	... ..	6
Bakehouses	... ..	3

NOTICES SERVED DURING 1962

	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Statutory</i>
General Defects	5	4
Drainage	8	—
Defective dustbins	4	—
Overgrown ditches	2	—
Shops Act	2	—
Food Hygiene	14	—
Factories (Sanitary Accommodation)	4	—
Means of Escape in case of fire	—	1
Blocked drains	—	1
	39	6
	—	—

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

There were no complaints concerning atmospheric pollution during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

During 1962 no persons were buried by the Local Authority under the provisions of Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

PUBLIC BATHS

There is a swimming bath in the grounds of Shillingford Bridge Hotel, which is open to the public during the summer months. Another open air swimming bath is being constructed in Edmonds Park, Didcot, by the Didcot Parish Council and will be opened in 1963.

No samples of swimming bath water were taken for analysis during the year.

HOUSING

During 1962, 8 cottages were represented as unfit for habitation.

The following building programme was commenced in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell: -

4 Houses

6 Cottage Flats

The number of applicants on the Council's Housing List is approximately 606.

CARAVANS

The Council has issued site licences for the following caravan sites in the district, subject to their compliance with "Model Standards 1960".

SHILLINGFORD HILL CARAVAN SITE, BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL.

120 permanent sites, 40 holiday sites.

Provides a good standard of amenities, but is not yet up to Model Standards.

BLAGRAVE FARM, DIDCOT.

25 permanent sites. Standard now satisfactory.

THREE POPLARS SITE, LONG WITTENHAM.

32 permanent sites.

Good progress with improvements. Awaiting connection to main drainage.

HAGBOURNE ROAD SITE, DIDCOT.

100 permanent sites.

Leased to Mr. K. Colman. Improvement work to commence early 1963.

POST OFFICE SITE, CHOLSEY.

Improvement work now proceeding. Sanitary block and main drainage still to be provided.

BARLEY MOW SITE, LONG WITTENHAM.

6 permanent sites. 40 holiday sites.

Negotiations are proceeding with the agents for this site for improvement works to be carried out without further delay.

The following sites are earmarked for closure during 1963: -

Brasenose Road Site, Didcot	12 caravans
Water Tower Site, Brasenose Road, Didcot	4 caravans
Cross Road Site, Cholsey	6 caravans

In addition to the above the Council issued temporary planning consents for 30 individual caravans during 1962.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 — INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	42	48	4	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	43	49	4	—

2 — CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences — 4 (3 Remedied).

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork — No. of workers required by Section 133(1)(c),
 74 (Making, etc., of wearing apparel).

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

MILK

All milk sold in the district was subject to the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations and licences, issued by the Berkshire County Council, in force during the year were as follows: -

Pasteuriser	...	...	...	1
Dealers (pre-packed)	...	...	...	7

At the request of the County Council, sampling, mainly from schools, was continued as follows: -

Tuberculin tested milk	...	...	...	9
Pasteurised	...	...	...	49
Sterilised	...	...	...	1
Methylene Blue failures	...	...	...	5
Phosphatase failures	...	...	...	Nil
Turbidity test failures	...	...	...	Nil

The five methylene blue failures, indicating a higher bacterial activity than was desirable, were immediately followed up with further samples, all of which were reported as being satisfactory.

Three complaints of dirty milk bottles were received during the year and in each case the matter was taken up with the dairy concerned. It was found that bottle washing and inspection were satisfactory but warning letters were sent out and an appeal was made to the public through the press for extra care in the handling of empty bottles.

CREAM

During the year seven samples of cream were taken from Elm Farm Dairy, Grove, and all were reported as being satisfactory. The plant was resited during the year and further improvements were made to the separating and cooling systems. This work has undoubtedly helped towards the continued production of cream of a high bacteriological standard.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are 73 catering establishments in the district including 57 licensed premises.

57 visits were made to these premises during the year and conditions were found to be generally satisfactory. However, in 14 instances improvements were carried out upon recommendations made.

There are, in addition, a number of kitchens serving the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority Establishments at Harwell and Grove but these are not, at present, open to normal routine inspection.

SHOPS

There are 76 shops in the district and of these all but nine are food premises. 136 visits were made to such premises during the year and in the main conditions were found to be satisfactory. In twelve cases, improvements were carried out upon request.

BAKEHOUSES

There were four bakehouses in use in the district during the year, three of these being used for the baking of bread only. Seven inspections were made and a request for redecoration in one instance was promptly met.

MOBILE FOOD TRADERS AND FRUIT STALLS

Twelve mobile food traders were found to be operating within the district in addition to ice cream vendors. With four exceptions these traders have their depots in other districts where control is exercised through routine inspections. The standard generally was found to be satisfactory.

Four fruit stalls were again in use during the respective seasons and conditions were satisfactory.

ICE CREAM PREMISES

There are 49 registered ice cream premises in the district and in addition a number of catering establishments sell pre-packed ice cream.

18 samples of ice cream were taken during the year 11 of which fell into Grade I. The remaining 7 fell into Grades II and III according to the degree of bacterial activity. These were from various manufacturers and in each case repeat samples proved to be satisfactory.

In addition 41 ice lolly samples were taken, most of them jointly with the Wantage Urban District Council due to the fact that the depot of the firm in question is situated in the town. Early results showed evidence of contamination with coliform organisms and representations were made to the firm with the result that certain lines were withdrawn pending detailed investigations by the Central Public Health Laboratory at the manufacturing plant. As a result of recommendations made by them, later samples showed some improvement. It would be helpful if some definite bacteriological standards were laid down in respect of these ices.

All the larger ice cream producers have vans operating in the district and there has been a marked increase in the sale of softa mix ice cream which is dispensed from purpose made machines on the vans. This has to some extent posed a new public health problem in as much as the bacteriological quality of the product can vary according to the conscientiousness of individual driver/salesmen. However, inspections have revealed that in general the vans are well equipped and hygienically operated. The technique of sterilization of the machines, which is the key to a safe product, has been closely examined and appears to be quite satisfactory if carried out under proper supervision. Samples of the ice cream, included in the above figures, all fell into Grade I.

WATERCRESS BEDS

During the year further efforts were made to persuade the two cress growers in the district to install sterilizing apparatus and in support of this action 35 samples of cress bed water and two samples of watercress were taken most of which showed varying degrees of contamination. An undertaking was given by one grower to commence chlorination early in 1963 and arrangements were made to take further samples when the scheme was in operation. Production of cress continued from beds at Letcombe Bassett, Childrey and Ginge.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption: -

117 lbs. canned meat

105 lbs. other canned products

FOOD POISONING

Two employees of the A.E.R.E. Harwell were reported to be suffering from acute gastritis following the consumption of orange juice purchased from machines on the site. Investigation disclosed the presence of copper in the drinks, which were pre-packed, varying in amount from 0.62 to 38.0 parts per million. Supplies were immediately impounded and the producer's plant, which lay

outside the district, carefully examined. Whilst no definite cause for the contamination could be established it seems likely that the acid in the fruit drink acting over the week-end upon worn copper fittings was the cause and the plant was voluntarily closed and the business transferred to Smith Bros. at Elm Farm Grove. Routine samples were taken there but no heavy copper concentration was discovered.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

One slaughterhouse and one knackers yard were licensed in the district but the latter is used only rarely. Regular visits were made to the former for purposes of meat inspection and conditions were always found to be satisfactory.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	22	226	129	104	529
Number inspected	22	226	129	104	529
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	6	1	3	24
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	23	—	—	71
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	4.5	12.8	0.8	3.0	18.0
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—

The total weight of meat and offal condemned was — 3,490 lbs.

SEWERAGE EFFLUENT

During the year two series of samples of effluent were taken from Elm Farm Dairy, Grove, and the Public Analyst's reports indicated that these still did not conform to the agreed standard. However, steps are now being taken to move livestock to an alternative site and this should result in a marked improvement.

REFUSE COLLECTION

4,155 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of at the refuse tips at Farnborough, Hermitage and Stanford. Tipping on one day per week also took place at Pearith Gravel Pits by arrangement with Wallingford R.D.C. Preparatory work was completed at the new tip, Haw Farm, Hampstead Norris, in readiness for the closure of Sandy Lane, Hermitage.

No material change took place in the collection arrangements for domestic refuse during the year. A fortnightly kerbside collection continued, with one housing estate near Wantage collected weekly.

In addition to the disposal of trade waste from the R.A.F. Welford and the Medical Research Council at Harwell, collection and disposal of waste from the Rutherford Institute was commenced under contract in September.

During the year, the Council accepted a recommendation that a weekly collection service be instituted throughout the area to commence as early as practicable in 1963. A Sub-Committee was also formed to investigate problems in connection with refuse disposal with special regard to reducing the amount of bulk refuse by pulverisation or other means in view of the shortage of tipping space.

The service was operated throughout the year with the following staff and equipment:

EQUIPMENT

- 2 Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft Freighters.
- 1 Dennis 10 cubic yard Side Loader.
- 1 Brayloader.
- 1 Fordson Major Tractor.
- 1 Aveling Barford Calf-dozer (rarely used).

EMPLOYEES

- 3 Driver/Loaders.
- 3 Loaders.
- 1 Fitter/Tipman.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

All sewage tanks serving Council Houses are emptied once every month while cesspools are emptied once every two months. In addition, the vehicle is available for private work. During the year it was found possible to maintain the charge at the previous years' figure of £1 15s. 0d. per load, with reductions for subsequent loads, etc.

Number of emptyings of Council sewage tanks	112
Number of emptyings of Council cesspools	91
Number of emptyings of private tanks and cesspools	497
Income from emptying of private tanks, etc.	£1,148 15s. 4d.
Number of gallons of sewage pumped	1,092,000

The cesspool emptier, which was purchased new in February, 1956, received a major overhaul by the manufacturers, Shelvoke & Drewry Ltd., during the year under review.

WATER SUPPLY

A piped supply of water is available in all parishes. In each case a borehole is the source of supply. There are four separate schemes but these have been linked so that a deficiency at one bore may be augmented from another.

During the year 35 samples were taken from these various sources and were found to be of high bacteriological standard.

There are a number of private supplies in use in the district and these range from individual wells to the larger schemes at South Fawley, Catmore, Lockinge Estate and the Agricultural Research Station, Compton.

95 samples were taken from 27 different private supplies and in 15 cases varying degrees of pollution were reported. Action taken on these was as follows: -

Properties dealt with as unfit (Sec. 16 Housing Act 1957)	3
Mains water connections made	5
Other alternative supplies obtained or proposed	3
Improvements made to wells	3
Chlorinators installed	1

Reference must again be made to the small Lockinge Estate supply at Ardington Wick, which showed evidence of recurring contamination during the year in spite of the improvements carried out. The advice of the Thames Valley Water Board's chemist and bacteriologist was sought and his recommendations, which involve the installation of a new storage tank, are to be acted upon early in 1963.

Parish	Acres	Pop.	No. of Houses		No. of Houses Connected to Water Mains		Sewerage
			Council	Private	Council	Private	
Ardington	2693	355	—	129	—	120	Yes
E. Challow	1657	690	90	152	90	142	Yes
W. Challow	1070	186	16	40	16	36	Yes
Childrey	2929	433	42	112	42	111	Yes
Denchworth	1051	152	12	43	12	41	
Goosey	946	121	6	34	6	25	
Grove	2513	1851	142	448	142	401	Yes
E. Hanney	2200	625	44	147	44	140	Yes
W. Hanney	1333	415	28	127	28	126	Yes
E. Hendred	3198	1330	86	351	86	337	Yes
W. Hendred	2002	322	29	73	29	68	
L. Regis	2155	465	42	115	42	110	Yes
L. Bassett	1631	156	12	46	12	46	*
Lockinge	3763	259	—	95	—	91	Yes
Sparsholt	3329	273	30	70	30	67	*
Aldworth	1886	202	12	56	12	50	*
Beedon	2096	376	22	104	22	99	*
Blewbury	4246	1187	64	284	64	266	Yes
Brightwalton	2054	286	18	95	18	87	*
Catmore	710	39	—	16	—	9	
Chaddleworth	3400	428	46	105	46	101	*
Chilton	1448	771	44	185	44	176	Yes
Compton	3803	1020	74	257	74	244	Yes
Farnborough	1886	95	4	33	4	31	
Fawley	2190	149	5	44	5	40	*
H. Norris	4479	680	52	179	52	161	*
Hermitage	1482	675	7	218	7	201	*
Harwell	2503	2226	90	508	90	482	Yes
E. Ilsley	3017	427	40	100	40	87	Yes
W. Ilsley	3037	265	8	88	8	82	
Peasemore	2049	169	12	57	12	39	
Upton	1413	305	25	91	25	82	
	74159	16933	1102	4402	1102	4098	

* Small disposal works in existence for Council houses only.

FARMS

An attempt was made during the year to secure satisfactory sanitary accommodation for farm workers as required by the Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956. 47 Visits were made and 19 informal notices, both verbal and written were served. At the end of the year active steps were being taken to comply in 7 cases.

RODENT CONTROL

Number of complaints received	...	111
Number of infestations	... ..	729

In addition, any infestations found at the A.E.R.E., Harwell and Grove, and also Council owned properties throughout the area were effectively dealt with during the year.

AGRICULTURAL

Number of contracts	... ..	35
Value of contracts	... ..	£794
Treated at least once per month.		

CARAVANS

Conditions on the three large licensed sites at Grove, Harwell and Blewbury continued to improve during the year. The sites were full to capacity and efforts were somewhat hampered, therefore, to close the remaining individual sites. 33 temporary site licences accommodating 43 caravans were issued at the beginning of the year with a condition that, once vacated, the sites could not be re-occupied. Three further licences were issued during the year, one on agricultural grounds the other two to provide accommodation during rebuilding operations. At the end of the year the number of temporary licensed sites had been reduced to 15 (19 caravans). Apart from the three new licences mentioned above, three of these sites were used for business purposes to house night-watchmen, etc.

During the year also three remaining sites where planning consent had been specifically refused were finally closed, one family being re-housed by the Council and two families transferring to the Abingdon Rural District Council site at Radley.

One former temporary site accommodating one caravan was made permanent and conditions there are excellent in every way.

There are still a number of caravans throughout the district which, for various reasons, are exempt from licensing but these have been checked and recorded as far as possible.

A small number of itinerant caravans were discovered during the year and it was necessary to impress upon the occupants the need for care in the disposal of waste matter. None of these remained for any length of time in one place.

One development on the larger caravan sites, received with mixed feelings during the year, was the introduction of the chalet type dwellings. On the one hand, the increased size of these buildings meant a decrease in the number of caravans which could

be allowed on the sites in accordance with the conditions of the licence, making it more difficult to obtain accommodation. On the other hand, the increased space and better amenities made these structures more suitable for small families awaiting a permanent home.

Caravans are likely to remain with us for years to come and, whilst every effort is being made by Local Authorities to improve site conditions, one aspect of control needs a more thorough investigation. Despite the improvement in the design and construction of caravans over the past few years, fire risk is still too high due to the use by manufacturers of materials of low fire-resisting quality. Legislation to bring about more effective control is overdue.

HOUSING

During the year the selection of tenants for Council Houses again formed an important part of the work of the Public Health Department.

New Council Houses were built and occupied as follows: -

Grove	24
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Families were re-housed from unfit houses as follows: -

Denchworth	1
Letcombe Regis	2
West Hendred	1
East Hanney	1
Ginge	1
West Hanney	2
Goosey	1
Aldworth	1

Houses demolished during the year: -

Lilley	1
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During the year 24 properties were improved with the assistance of an Improvement Grant made by the Council under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958. In addition, improvements to 19 properties were carried out with the aid of Standard Grants.

In response to a Government Circular a housing survey was commenced towards the end of the year with a view to persuading owners of older properties to make use of the Improvement Grants in order to achieve a higher standard of accommodation.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Owing to housing development in the parish of Grove, the possibility of declaring a Smoke Control Area was considered by the Council. As an interim measure, all builders were advised to install only appliances capable of burning smokeless fuels in their new properties to save the expense of conversion at a future date.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 — INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	45	20	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	7	—	—
Total	54	29	2	—

2 — CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences (referred by H.M. Inspector) — 2 (Remedied).

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork — No. of workers required by Section 133(1)(c), — 2
(Making, etc., of wearing apparel).

SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S WORK DURING THE YEAR 1962

Number of different premises visited	...	...	...	2486
Number of inspections made	...	...	...	3408
Number of complaints received	...	...	...	307
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	...	...	...	283
Number of notices served: informal	...	...	...	62
statutory	...	...	...	1
Number of prosecutions	...	...	...	1
Number of nuisances abated				
as to privies and W.C.'s, sink wastes, etc.	...	...	...	10
as to drains and cesspools	...	...	...	102
as to pigs and other animals	...	...	...	6
as to deficient or impure water	...	...	...	18
as to unclean houses	...	...	...	3
as to polluted ditches and streams	...	...	...	5
as to insanitary accumulations and deposits	...	...	...	8
as to other defects or nuisances	...	...	...	103
Number of premises disinfected	...	...	...	3
Number of water samples for examination: public	...	...	...	35
private	...	...	...	95
Number of wells closed	...	...	...	8
Number of wells cleansed, repaired or deepened	...	...	...	4
Number of water certificates granted (R.D. only)	...	...	...	Nil
Number of seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food	...	...	...	75
Number of conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s	...	...	...	45
Number of slaughterhouses on register	...	...	...	1
visits	...	...	...	185
Piggeries. Number of inspections	...	...	...	12
Number of retail dairies in district	...	...	...	8
Number of inspections of these dairies	...	...	...	20

